

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 SSO-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6625

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0082

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, MZ

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES IN MOZAMBIQUE

REF: (A) STATE 005724: (B) MAPUTO 0079

1. A US CONTRIBUTION OF \$1.45 MILLION TO UNHCR TO ASSIST ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES IN MOZAMBIQUE WOULD REPRESENT ABOUT ONE-HALF OF THE FUNDS BEING SOUGHT BY THE UNHCR FOR ITS REGULAR AND EMERGENCY PROGRAMS FOR ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR CY 1978. THIS IS A VERY RESPECTABLE CONTRIBUTION.

2. IT IS THE EMBASSY'S JUDGEMENT THAT THE UNHCR BUDGET ESTIMATES ARE LEAN AND WILL SATISFY ONLY THE BASIC MINIMAL NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES. APPARENTLY, THE LOCAL UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE THINKS SO TOO, FOR HE IS SEEKING TO OBTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VOLUNTARY DONORS TO FUND ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS THAT CANNOT BE FUNDED FROM UNHCR'S REGULAR BUDGET (REFTEL B)

3. THE UNHCR BUDGET ESTIMATE MAY PROVE INADEQUATE IF A DECISION IS MADE TO ESTABLISH A FOURTH REFUGEE CAMP OR IF THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES TO THE CAMPS RESULTING FROM
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THE NOVEMBER RHODESIAN RAIDS GREATLY EXCEEDS THE UNHCR'S 7,000 ESTIMATE. IF EITHER SHOULD OCCUR, THE UNHCR WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR ITS REFUGEE PROGRAM HERE.

4. VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION ARE NOT ACTIVE IN MOZAMBIQUE. ONLY THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION HAS A ONE MAN

OFFICE HERE AND IT WAS OPENED RECENTLY. VOLAGS THEREFORE MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ADMINISTERING A \$1 MILLION CONTRIBUTION. THEY MIGHT MANAGE IF THEY USED THESE FUNDS TO PURCHASE CLOTHING, MEDICINE, AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES FOR THE REFUGEES. PARA 2C OF REFTEL B PROVIDES AN INVENTORY OF PROJECTS THAT COULD BE FUNDED BY VOLAGS. THE GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LOCAL UNHCR OFFICE, HAS THE CAPABILITY TO TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTE VOLAG DONATIONS.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION, THE DEPARTMENT AND USAID MAY WISH TO EXPLORE IF AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (WHICH HAD TWO REPRESENTATIVES IN MAPUTO LAST WEEK) OR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE COULD SERVE AS VOLAGS FOR CHANNELING US AID TO REFUGEES. THE LATTER MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN ADMINISTERING SOME OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMS RECOMMENDED IN PARA 2C OF REFTEL B.

6. WE BELIEVE A USG CONTRIBUTION OF \$1.45 MILLION TO UNHCR AND \$1 MILLION TO VOLAGS WILL BE VIEWED BY PRESIDENT MACHEL AS A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO NEEDS OF ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES AND AS A PROMPT AND RESPONSIVE FOLLOW UP TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S OFFER IN EARLY DECEMBER TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR UNHCR ACTIVITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE.
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